

Listing of Claims

1-64. (Canceled)

1 ~~65~~. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting an electronic auction between a plurality of ~~potential-bidders~~ including at least first and second bidders, the ~~plurality of potential~~ first and second bidders competing to supply a buyer with products over a plurality of different contract term segments, wherein the supply of said products to the buyer over the plurality of contract term segments corresponds to for a lot having at least one product, comprising:

means for receiving first bid information from at the first bidder for said lot and for receiving second bid information from the second bidder for said lot, said first bid information comprising a first series of payments by the buyer over the plurality of contract term segments, said second bid information comprising a second series of payments by the buyer over said plurality of contract term segments; and

means for generating a first non-zero net present value ~~transformed~~ bid using at least said first bid information and for generating a second non-zero net present value bid using at least said second bid information, said generated first and second non-zero net present value ~~transformed~~ bids being used to effect a relative comparison of ~~transformed~~ bids, said relative comparison of ~~transformed~~ bids enabling submitted bids, defined in one or more bidder-specific contexts, to be compared on a common competitive basis;

wherein said means for generating generates said first non-zero net present value bid using a predefined discount rate structure and said first series of payments over said plurality of contract term segments, and said means for generating generates said second non-zero net present value bid using said predefined discount rate structure and said second series of payments over said plurality of contract term segments ~~received multi-segment bidding parameters~~, said predefined discount rate structure and said plurality of contract term segments being common to all said first and second bidders, said first non-zero net present value bid representing a sum of said first series of payments over said plurality of contract

term segments which are discounted to a present value using said predefined discount rate structure, said second non-zero net present value bid representing a sum of said second series of payments over said plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using said predefined discount rate structure.

66-68. (Canceled)

5 69. (Currently Amended) A method of participating in an electronic auction between a plurality of ~~potential~~ bidders including at least first and second bidders, the plurality of potential first and second bidders competing to supply a buyer with products over a plurality of different contract term segments, wherein the supply of said products to the buyer over the plurality of contract term segments corresponds to for a lot having at least one product, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving first bid information from a bidder for said lot and receiving second bid information from a second bidder for said lot, said first bid information comprising a first series of payments by the buyer over said plurality of contract term segments, said second bid information comprising a second series of payments by the buyer over said plurality of contract term segments;

(b) generating a ~~transformed~~ first non-zero net present value bid using at least said first bid information and generating a second non-zero net present value bid using at least said second bid information; and

(c) ~~wherein transmitting transformed bid information to an auction server, said transformed first and second non-zero net present value bids information enabling said an~~ auction server to generate a relative comparison of bids, originally defined in one or more bidder-specific contexts, on a common competitive basis;

wherein step (b) comprises the step of generating ~~a~~ said first non-zero net present value bid using a predefined discount rate structure and said first series of payments over said plurality of contract term segments, and generating said second non-zero net present value bid using said predefined discount rate structure and said second series of payments over said

plurality of contract term segments~~received multi-segment bidding parameters~~, said predefined discount rate structure and said plurality of contract term segments being common to ~~all~~said first and second bidders, said first non-zero net present value bid representing a sum of ~~a~~said first series of payments over ~~a~~said plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using said predefined discount rate structure, said second non-zero net present value bid representing a sum of said second series of payments over said plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using said predefined discount rate structure.

70-75. (Canceled)

6 76. (Currently Amended) <sup>5</sup> The method of claim 69, further comprising: ~~A method of conducting an electronic online auction between a plurality of bidders, the plurality of bidders competing for a lot having at least one product, comprising the steps of:~~

- (a) — ~~receiving net present value bid information from a bidder for the lot;~~
- (b) — ~~generating a non-zero net present value bid value using said net present value bid information, said non-zero net present value bid value representing a sum of a series of payments over a plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using a predefined discount rate structure, said predefined discount rate structure being common to all bidders; and~~
- (e) — ~~transmitting the first and second non-zero net present value bids information to the plurality of bidders, said non-zero net present value bids information enabling the plurality of bidders to view non-zero net present value bids submitted by the plurality of bidders.~~

7 77. (Previously Presented) <sup>6</sup> The method of claim 76, wherein step (a) comprises the step of receiving multi-segment bidding parameters, said multi-segment bidding parameters defining a pattern of payments over a plurality of contract term segments.

78. (Canceled)

8 ~~79~~<sup>7</sup> (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~77~~<sup>7</sup>, wherein step (a) comprises the step of receiving price values for each of the plurality of contract term segments.

2 ~~80~~<sup>1</sup> (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~65~~<sup>1</sup>, further comprising: ~~A system for conducting an electronic online auction between a plurality of bidders, the plurality of bidders competing for a lot having at least one product, comprising:~~

— means for receiving net present value bid information from a bidder for the lot;

— means for generating a non-zero net present value bid value using said net present value bid information, said non-zero net present value bid value representing a sum of a series of payments over a plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using a predefined discount rate structure, said predefined discount rate structure being common to all bidders; and

— means for transmitting the first and second non-zero net present value bids information to asaid plurality of bidders, said non-zero net present value bids information enabling the plurality of bidders to view non-zero net present value bids submitted by the plurality of bidders.

3 ~~81~~<sup>2</sup> (Previously Presented) The system of claim ~~80~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein said received net present value bid information includes multi-segment bidding parameters defining a pattern of payments over a plurality of contract term segments.

82. (Canceled)

4 ~~83~~<sup>3</sup> (Previously Presented) The system of claim ~~81~~<sup>3</sup>, wherein said received net present value bid information includes price values for each of the plurality of contract term segments.